

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 050612

NODIS
WH - FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

FOL RPT LISBON 1806 ACTION SECSTATE 7 MAR 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T LISBON 1806

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, AO, US
SUBJ: ANGOLAN NORMALIZATION

REF: (A) STATE 049212, (B) LISBON 1596

1. FOLLOWING ARE PARTIAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN
PARA 2 REF A. MORE DETAILED COMMENTS WILL BE FORWARDED
AFTER NEXT MEETING WITH FERREIRA.

-- (A) REGARDING NETO'S CHARGES OF FEBRUARY
24, FERREIRA COMMENTED TO EMBOFF DURING REF B
MEETING THAT ANGOLA KNEW THAT CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES,
SPECIFICALLY ZAIRE AND SOUTH AFRICA, WERE DIRECTLY

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PAGE 02 STATE 050612

SUPPORTING FNLA, UNITA AND FLEC GUERRILLA OPERATIONS AGAINST
LEGAL RPA GOVT. HE SAID THAT SOME PERSONS IN NETO GOVT
BELIEVED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS ALSO INVOLVED, AT LEAST
INDIRECTLY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT NETO DID
NOT BELIEVE THESE ACCUSATIONS, AND THAT HE HIMSELF THOUGHT
CHARGES OF U.S. INTERFERENCE/SUPPORT WERE BEING MADE
STRICTLY FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL PURPOSES. FERREIRA WAS

APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF ANY PLANS BY NETO TO MAKE PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE U.S.

-- (B) WE INTERPRET FERREIRA COMMENTS THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE "AT EMBASSY LEVEL" AS A GENERIC STATEMENT, REFLECTING RPA'S DESIRE FOR RECOGNITION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT ONCE THE U.S. RECOGNIZES THE NETO GOVT., PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD BE MORE EASILY AND QUICKLY RESOLVED. HOWEVER, FERREIRA WAS DELIBERATELY VAGUE IN SUGGESTING WHAT NEXT STEP SHOULD BE AND DID NOT MENTION LUANDA SPECIFICALLY AS LOCUS FOR FURTHER TALKS. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN LISBON 0911, OFFER IN STATE 021182 WAS PASSED EXACTLY AS SUGGESTED AND SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION INDICATED FERREIRA UNDERSTOOD MESSAGE THOROUGHLY. EMBOFF REMINDED FERREIRA OF THIS CLEARLY STATED U.S. POSITION, AND SUGGESTED THAT MANY STEPS AND LEVELS OF NEGOTIATION WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE DECISION ON FORMAL RECOGNITION COULD BE MADE.

2. DCM WILL DISCUSS POINTS RAISED IN REF A WITH FERREIRA AS SOON AS SUITABLE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. AT THIS POINT EMBASSY SEES NO REASON NOT TO CONTINUE USING FERREIRA AS CHANNEL TO NETO.

3. FYI: REGRET MISUNDERSTANDING CONCERNING DATE OF MEETING. FERREIRA WAS UNABLE MEET WITH EMBOFF UNTIL FRIDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 18. LOCAL FOLLOWUP ACTIONS DELAYED PREPARATION OF REPORTING TELEGRAM.

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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PAGE 03 STATE 050612

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